THE AMUNDSEN PHOTOGRAPHS. Edited and introduced by ROLAND HUNTFORD. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1987. 199 p., maps, illus. Hardbound. Cdn$50.00.

In the spring of 1986 an exhibition was mounted in Vadsø, northern Norway, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Roald Amundsen's flight in the airship *Norge* from Vadsø, via Kongsfjorden in Svalbard across the Pole to Teller, Alaska, the first flight across the Arctic Ocean. In their search for Amundsen memorabilia the organizers of the exhibition approached Mrs. Alda Amundsen, widow of Roald Amundsen's nephew Gustav. Searching the attic of her apartment in Oslo, Mrs. Amundsen produced a wooden box labelled "Horlick's Malted Milk" and assumed that it contained supplies left over from one of Amundsen's polar expeditions. But when it was opened in Vadsø it was found to contain over 200 of Amundsen's original glass-mounted lantern slides.

It was known that Amundsen had had several sets of lantern slides that he used on the lecture circuit, but when his aircraft disappeared while heading north to help in the search for Umberto Nobile and the other survivors of the crash of the airship *Italia* in 1928, his affairs and his belongings were left in a state of confusion, and the various sets of lantern slides were assumed to have somehow gone missing. The set in the box found in 1986 was thus the first more-or-less complete set ever found.

Roland Huntford, who recently published a dual biography of Scott and Amundsen (Huntford, 1979), has made a selection of over 150 of the slides discovered in Vadsø. They pertain to three of Amundsen's major expeditions: his voyage through the Northwest Passage in *Gjøa* in 1903-07; his journey to the South Pole in 1910-12; and his voyage through the Northwest Passage in *Maud* in 1918-20. Many of the slides have been hand tinted with greater or less success; in some cases the results are quite crude and garish. Not a few show signs of the wear and tear resulting from hundreds or even thousands of projections during Amundsen's lecture tours; for example, the famous view of the South Pole party saluting the Norwegian flag flying atop the tent pitched at the South Pole is badly cracked. Others appear badly faded as compared to the illustrations printed from the same photographs used in Amundsen's own accounts of his expeditions. Since the pictures taken on the South Pole trip were taken by Olav Bjaaland using a folding Kodak camera (Amundsen's own, more sophisticated camera having malfunctioned), many of them leave much to be desired in terms of exposure, focus and composition. As Huntford remarks, however, "The outcome is a poignant blend of immediacy, artlessness and authority." The best of the photos, on the other hand, are first-class.

Huntford's general introduction, which includes a condensed biography of Amundsen, placing the three major expeditions and hence the photographs into perspective, and his introduction to each of the expeditions in turn are informative and more than adequate. The same holds true for most of the extended captions to each of the photographs. One specific criticism, however, is that on three separate occasions Huntford commits a gaffe that casts serious doubt on the breadth of his scholarship, namely, his statement that *Maud* was only the second ship, after Nordenskiöld's *Vega*, to complete the Northeast Passage; in fact she was the fourth such ship. In 1914-15 the Russian Imperial Navy icebreakers *Taymyr* and *Vaygach* (Captains B.A. Vil'kitskiy and P.A. Novopashennyy respectively) travelled from Pacific to Atlantic via the Northeast Passage, wintering en route off the west coast of Poluostrov Taymyr (Starokadomskiy, 1976). Such a mistake would also suggest that the text was not submitted to any rigorous review process by the publisher. While this reviewer is prepared to believe that this is an innocent mistake, in view of the fact that it is repeated three times a Russian reader could be forgiven for interpreting this as a deliberate attempt at belittling Russian arctic achievements.

The other major failing may perhaps also be the fault of the publisher rather than the author, namely, the total lack of references, a bibliography, or even an abbreviated reading list. For example, only by comparing Huntford's quotations from Amundsen's diary on the South Pole trip with the text of Amundsen's book (Amundsen, 1912) can one establish that Huntford did indeed consult the original diaries and did not simply regurgitate sections of the book. But this reader would like to know this without going through such a complex process and would like to know where the diaries are located. Huntford had demonstrated clearly in his earlier book on Scott and Amundsen that he is a master at archival research and at handling the techniques of referencing, and this makes the omission of a bibliography all the more puzzling. Whoever is responsible for the omission has drastically reduced the value of the book to the serious reader. That having been said, we are enormously indebted to Huntford and his publisher for making available a remarkable pictorial record of three great polar journeys by arguably the greatest polar traveller of them all.

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ANTARCTIC SCIENCE. Edited by D.W.H. WALTON, with contributions by C.S.M. DOAKE, J.R. DUDENEY, I. EVERSON, R.M. LAWS and D.W.H. WALTON, of British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge. Introduction by SIR VIVIAN FUCHS, F.R.S. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987. 280 + viii p., 43 maps, 3 tables, 303 illus., 3 appendixes, index, selected bib. Hardbound. Price not indicated.

Antarctica is probably the only region of the world for which a review of scientific progress could be so collectively integrated. The book's coverage is strongly international and interdisciplinary, making it (no doubt) the best single statement about the frozen continent and the quest to uncover its secrets. More than being a statement that traverses biological, earth and atmospheric sciences, politics, history and exploration, and current issues besides, it also captures the *esprit de corps* of the human endeavour. Nowhere else (unless in space travel) have communities of scientists been more aware of the roles of history, exploration, politics and logistical support in the conduct of their research.

The book's objectives are twofold: 1) to put Antarctic science in a general perspective; and 2) to assess scientific progress to date and to point to future research directions (being also mindful of the review of the Antarctic Treaty in 1991). Both objectives are well fulfilled.

The format is in 5 sections and 18 chapters, opening with "Geography, Politics and Science." Three chapters in this section deal mainly with history, the fourth with politics. There are many more detailed and scholarly histories of Antarctica, but this account is history from the view of the scientist, history as it influenced the development of Antarctic science. The organizing of chapters within a section to conclude with a current perspective (here political) is followed throughout the book. Thus the biological section draws the discussion of aquatic and terrestrial biogeography and of adaptations and ecological food webs into questions of managing living resources, with the emphasis on marine fisheries. In similar manner the earth sciences section traces the dynamics of Antarctic ice and rock from local scales to global and concludes by relating tectonic industry to former life and current resources. The atmospheric sciences expand the climate dimension and then extend this to geospace and the developments now arising from the research cooperation established by the International Geophysical Year. The final section poses questions of scientific direction and of the Antarctic Treaty and the future — will it be cooperation or confrontation?